Katherine Millard

Journal Article

EDU 455

Teachers Promote Cheating

The main theme of this article discussed the “organized, systematic cheating” discovered in Atlantic Public Schools. On Tuesday, July 6, Governor Nathan Deal announced that as many as thirty-eight principals and 178 educators had engaged in tampering with Georgia’s CRTC’s. The faculty previously mentioned has been accused of physically changing answers themselves on the tests, hinting at students when they had chosen the wrong answer, and arranging seats in a way that allowed students to cheat off of each other. Some teachers went as far as to take the tests home and correct them completely. Forty-four out of fifty-six schools examined had participated in some form of cheating. The article summed up the reasons investigators gave for the cheating: unrealistic testing targets, pressure, and intimidation.

I think the author, Douglas Stanglin, shared the same reaction over this issue as most people would, shock. Stanglin definitely did his research and provided the reader with a lot of facts. He did show the reader another side of the story by interviewing a teacher who felt she had been forced to cheat (in order to escape the school system “getting back at her”), but for the most part his article focused on how desperate the principles were and how pressured the teachers were to meet the district’s goals. The author did not give any recommendations as to how to get rid of the problem, but everyone knows cheating is wrong and that there is never a good reason to do it.

I was completely shocked to see how many schools had been accused of cheating and it made me wonder how many more schools in other states there are that do the same things just to meet a goal set by the district. I understand some of the teachers felt pressured, but I also know that they are all well aware of what is right and what is wrong. Intimidated or not, I do not feel like any of these educators were truly doing their job if they were forced to correct so many tests in order to meet the target. If you teach it right the first time, you won’t have to worry about your students doing very poorly.

Source:

http://content.usatoday.com/communities/ondeadline/post/2011/07/probe-of-atlanta-schools-finds-principals-teachers-directed-cheating-on-tests/1